

As of March 17, 2,477 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. Of those, 486 were infested host trees and 1,991 were high-risk exposed host trees.

Crews continued removing trees this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently, 13 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

Nine USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers, along with 13 contracted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continued to survey trees this week in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site.

On Wednesday, March 16, Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS NJ ALB Program Director, along with Rosa Yoo, NJ Forest Service Community Forester/NJ ALB Outreach Coordinator, provided six members of the New Jersey State Forestry Counsel with a tour of the Middlesex/Union counties infestation site and a program overview of the tree removal process.

On March 11, News 12 NJ, New Jersey's Cable News Network, interviewed Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS NJ ALB Program Director, and aired a story on the 5 p.m. newscast covering the tree removal process being conducted in Carteret.

On March 15, the *Woodbridge Sentinel* ran two articles on Page One and the *Edison Sentinel* ran an article on Page One, covering the tree removal process being conducted in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. All of the above-mentioned coverage was generated by the March 10 public outreach session held at the Rahway City Library.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.